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INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPOR

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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In addition, some very general miscellaneous military manpower data is given at the end of the report.

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INFORMATION ON CZECHOSLOVAK PTP AND TP (LABOR SERVICE) UNITS AND MISCELLANEOUS MANPOWER DATA

	25X1
CZECHOSLOVAK PTP ANI	D TP (LABOR SERVICE) UNITS
1. <u>Induction Procedure</u>	
a. Draft Call and Reporting	•
	letter of instruction. 25X1
V	
from the Military District Headquarters (Okress in VYSKOV (N49-19, E17-00) (UTM XQ 4560) there	ni vojenske velitelstvi - OVV) to report 25X1
group of about 60 individuals, who	
first screened by members of the interviewing to their conscript record cards. Then they recexamination and were classified into different CD, CV or C, as described below. b. Draft Board Organization	ceived a complete physical
The draft board at VYSKOV consisted member or president was a Mr KALIVOBA (fnu), with District National Committee (Okresni narodni vy a Doctor HULA (fnu), who was a civilian doctor	to was also chairman of the rbor). The medical member was
members were an unidentified Army major and an these officers were detailed there only	
board and their function was to classify or def	er each man called, according
to the established classification system. The by the local draft board and paid for his servi	
c. Physical Examination	
During the same day about examined by the doctor. Details of the examins	inductees were 25X1 tion were as follows: 25X1
Chest: Normal X-ray taken	
Blood Test: About ½ test tube of h	plood taken from the wein at
the forearm.	25X1

Urinalysis: Sample taken for an unidentified test.

Eyes: Color vision was tested by reading a number arrangement on a page full of vari-colored spots. Distance sight was tested by alphabet charts of various sizes of print, at about five meters.

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Ears: Hearing was tested by holding a hand over one ear, alternately, and listening to doctor talking and whispering in varied tones and with varying volume.

Dental Examination: Teeth were checked to determine missing teeth or needed dental repair.

Flat Reet: Foot prints were taken while the feet were wet.

Bones and the Body in General: The doctor inspected to see if any bones had been broken and badly healed together and he asked questions to this effect. He examined to see if all fingers and toes were intact movability of fingers, arms

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and leg joints was also checked.

d. Classification

Based on the information contained on the conscript's record card, which in addition to biographical data included the individual's political views and reliability, results of the physical examination, and the interviewer's recommendation, conscripts were classified into one of the following categories.

- A. Fully fit and capable for full military service; no physical deficiency.
- B. Fit and capable for full military service, but with some minor deficiency, such as wearing glasses.
- CJ. Limited military service owing to some physical handicap or injury, but capable of performing hard labor.
- CD. Not considered fit for general military service or hard labor. Could do limited or light work but would not be required to perform military type duties subsequent to basic training.
- Cv. Deferred because of some temporary physical disability or because of schooling or for some other unknown reason. Subject would be required to report to the draft board again in a specified time; for example, if deferred for a temporary physical disability, he would be required to report at the time he was cured or expected to be cured; if deferred for some other reason, he would be required to report at the end of the term of his deferment. Individuals in this category were given an unidentified document to show their draft status and reason for deferment.
- C. Rejected as unfit for military service because of a permanent physical disability. They were given an unidentified document to show their deferred status.

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there were both "A" and "B" classified persons in the various

branches of the Army.

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2. Procedure at Reception Center at MILOVICE

a. Processing

A group of 20 draftees were excerted the day following the initial reporting and processing at the Headquarters of the Military District by an unidentified lieutenant from VYSKOV to the military garrison at MILOVICE (N50-14, E14-58) (UTM VR 9267). There they joined a group totaling about 80 geomscripts who had arrived from other unidentified draft board areas and were again given a brief physical examination but no further screening. They were issued army uniforms and were given about two days! free timespefore the start of training.

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b. Basic Military Training

given a month of basic military training

"Prijimac" ("Acquaintance" or "Introduction") with an unidentified
Reconnaissance Company. The basic training received during this month consisted
mainly of close order drill, responsibilities of the soldier, saluting, military
courtesy, and weapons training. During the last half of the training they were
issued rifles and sub-machine guns and were trained in the handling and assembly
and disassembly of these weapons, but did not fire them. They were told that
firing was not a part of the training given before the oath of enlistment was
taken. This oath was administered at the end of the basic training.

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3. Service with the Auxiliary Technical Battalion (PTP) at MIMON

a. Travel and Assignment

At the end of the month's training a group of about were sent from MILOVICE to MIMON (N50-39, E14-44)(UTM VS 8112). They were sent by civilian train with an unidentified lieutenant as excort officer. Upon arrival they were greeted briefly by the commander of the 51st PTP (Pomochy tecknicky prapor) Auxiliary Technical Bn, and informed that they were assigned to that unit and told that it was a labor unit. They were not told the reason for their assignment to this type of unit. Their address while there was P. S. 7/L Mimon (Posadkova Sprava 7/L Mimon).

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b. Organization of the 51st PTP Bn

The 51st PTP Bn had its headquarters and one company at MIMON, three companies at PRAGUE, and two companies at MILOVICE.

The battalion headquarters consisted of about seven or eight officers and about six career NCOs with grades of sergeant and SFC. The CO of the battalion was a Lt Col Josef ZIZALA; Engineer branch, and the rest of the officers were captains or lieutenants.

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The company at MIMON consisted of about 90 to 100 enlisted men, an unknown number of non-career NCOs, and two officers. The commander was a lieutenant, name unknown.

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25X1 c. Mission and Training The company at MIMON was assigned the sole duty of farm work on land cultivated by the unit. The crops raised were grains, vegtables, and fruits. The grains were hauled away in the company's trucks to an unknown destination and the fruits and vegetables were used in the mess hall. 25X1 Supervision of the farm work and the on-the-job training of conscripts was usually done by NCOs with farm experience. 25X1 It was common knowledge that the companies at PRAGUE and at MILOVICE were engaged in the construction of unspecified buildings or housing for military usage. 25X1 The only military formations consisted of physical training and periods of about two hours of political indoctrination twice a week. The 25X1 mess hall was operated by army NCOs who were assigned to the unit. the rations not produced on the farm were, drawn from army 25X1 sources. Reorganization of the PTP into the TP Announcement of the Reorganization During the summer of 1954, possibly in July, the CO and the called a company formation 25X1 Political Officer and announced the reorganization of the PTP to the TP. They stated that the TP units would get light weapons such as rifles, sub-machine guns, and light machine guns, their own insignia and that they would also receive military training and firing with the weapons, but that the main mission of TP units would continue to be service as labor units. b. Weapons Training Shortly thereafter all TP personnel were issued a basic small arm such as a variety of used. 7.92mm rifles of new sub-machine guns, "Zbrojovka", caliber 7.62mm, and received training and had brief familiarisation firing with them. 25X1 time only officers and career NCOs were armed. The military training was stepped up from about two hours per week to one whole day per week, usually Saturday, and consisted of field stripping, sighting and range procedures, and close order drill with the weapon. Occasionally on a Tuesday or Wednesday they would have additional weapons training for two or three hours after normal duty hours. 25X1

c. Release of Older Members

After the reorganization of the labor battalions, release of members who had served two years or more began; many of these were older men being held in PTP units because they were suspected to be politically unreliable.

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this began about a month after the reorganization was effected.

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d. Movement of Battalion Headquarters

to PRAGUE

During August 1954 the headquarters group of the 51st TP, consisting of about 100 men and an unknown number of personnel of the battalion headquarters, was transferred to PRAGUE. The move was made in trucks of the unit which were escorted by the battalion officers, consisting of the deputy commander and about six other officers, all captains and lieutenants. The group headquarters were assigned to a part of PRAGUE called Stresovice but most of the men were billeted in a part of PRAGUE called Borislavka. The work they did there was construction labor, in the building of apartment houses which were to be quarters for army officers.

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5. Service in the Technical Battalion (TP) at PRAGUE

a. Organization of the Battalion

At the time of his service in PRAGUE with the 51st TP, the battalion consisted of six companies (four in PRAGUE and two in MILOVICE) with a total of about 1200 men, including the NCOs who normally did not perform the construction work assigned to the men.

b. Mission and Training

Members of the 51st TP in PRAGUE were assigned to duty as construction laborers ignder the supervision of civilian tradesmen and performed almost all types of labor jobs connected with the building of apartment buildings. The work hours were 0700 to 1500, five days per week, and military training with weapons was given on Saturdays. This latter training was normally conducted on the squad and plateon level. Their political officer told them that while their main mission was to furnish manual labor for construction work they were also considered a combat unit.

c. Unit Administration

the administration of the TP unit was the same as that of a normal army unit, with officers and NCOs in the usual command positions. The NCOs held the unit's formations and marched the men to work, held roll calls and conducted both military and political training.

The NCOs could work at the same construction work as the men of their units if they chose; when they did, they were paid by the same scale as the conscripts. for the work they performed.

d. Messing Facilities

The company operated a mess hall under supervision of an NCO but the actual cooking and cleaning work was done by civilian women. The rations were supplied from unidentified military supply sources. 25**X**1 better than that furnished the regular military units of the army, since they were paying for their food through payroll deductions for individual subsistence. 25X1 the construction company had something to do with the improvement in their food and 25X1 the rations were supplemented by outside purchase. They had meat every day and, in general, the preparation of food was better than before.

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25X1 Pay (1) Rates a basic soldier received 25X1 the normal military pay at the rate of 370 crowns (korun) per month in the old working in the 51st PTP hn as a farm laborer type currency. 25X1 74 crowns in the new currency normal military pay. as a construction laborer in the 51st TP Bn in PRAGUE the local constituted a very subpay rate for civilians in the same type of work stantial pay raise. Most of the conscripts received approximately 1000 to 1200 crowns per month, but charges for food and lodging reduced the actual cash to about 300 to 350 crowns per month. (2) Savings Program Strong pressure was put on the conscripts to save all or most of their remaining pay. A plan whereby one-half the remaining pay of each individual was withheld and credited to him as a savings to be paid him at the end of his service, was effected for each man. Of the other half, the person could receive it on pay day or he could have the army send it, or any part of it, a person could have all of his remaining pay to his family. 25X1 sent to his family if he could prove their need for it, but this was done on an individual basis and the individual had to justify his request. (3) Pay Call Pay day was on the 15th of the month, unless this fell on a holdiay or Sunday, when payday would be on the 14th or 16th. There was no ceremony or formation. The duty NCO would call pay call by blowing a whistle or calling to the men, who already had been informed about what time they would be paid. They were paid on a "first come, first served" basis by the First Sergeant. Each person signed for his pay on an unidentified roster and then returned to work. f. Supply and Maintenance of Individual Equipment Supply of individual equipment for TP personnel came from unknown army sources. When the individual wore out some item of clothing he simply took it to the First Sergeant who would replace it with another like item. Such items were kept in stock in the unit supply room. they were 25X1 drawn from battalion supply. Some of the items were new and some, such as shoes, were repaired. The individual usually took care of his own clothing and did little jobs of mending, but because of the nature of the labor performed, both farm work and construction work, their work uniforms were in rather bad condition. g. Post Exchange Facilities post exchange (Arma) in the caserne area 25X1 where such items as cigarettes, candy, beer, soft drinks, soap, and shaving items and some sport clothing were sold. None of these items were of foreign manufacture. No watches or jewelery were sold. The person operating the PX was a civilian woman. supplies for this exchange came from 25X1

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Prices were the same as in outside stores.

civilian sources.

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h. Medical Treatment

unit had only a small first aid station or dispensary, operated by an enlisted medical corpsman under the supervision of the battalion doctor. The unit had no dental aid station. The equipment in the first aid station consisted of small quantities of unidentified bandages, such items as scissors, splints, a few medical-type glass bottles, and a table. The same facilities were available in the unit after it moved from MIMON to PRAGUE.

Any serious illness or emergency treatment cases in the unit that could not be treated at this first aid station were sent to the nearest hospital. When the unit was at MIMON, this was a civilian hospital located in the city of CESKA LIPA (N50-41, E14-33) (UTM XO 1460). At PRAGUE, it was an unidentified military hospital. the decision to send a patient to the hospital was made by the corpsman and he did not call the doctor to check the patient at the first aid station.

i. Morale

(1) General Status of Morale in PTP Units

the morale in the PTP units was exceedingly low. Personnel were there unwillingly and did not generally sympathise with the policies of the Communist government. A majority of the men there were older, ranging between 30 and 45 years of age. 2 Much discontent and many arguments arose between these men and the younger personnel and also with the NCOs because of the former military grades, backgrounds or social standings of these individuals. There were frequent cases of overstaying passes or leaves and excessive drinking. During the hours of political instruction there was much ridicule, talking, and general lack of attention. On one such occasion the political period got so far out of control that, as a disciplinary measure, passes were discontinued for an unrecalled period of time. Usually the punishment for disciplinary violations was either verbal reprimand or discontinuance of privileges for a period of time. Generally the officers and NCOs did nothing about the arguments among the men.

(2) Improvement of Morale in TP Units

the reorganization of the PTP into the TP. the beginning of the release of the older men, and the fact that they were drawing the pay of civilian laborers for the same kind of work they were doing (construction work) caused the morale to go up a bit and it was not quite so bad as before, but it still was low. at the time of his release in November 1954, all the men knew that the term of service had been set at two years and this helped morale, as the remainder of the men who had been in the PTP knew they would be out soon.

(3) Leaves and Passes

Leaves were granted, but not often. They were given as a reward for good work, and some members with bad conduct or work records did not get them. Leaves could be from three to eight days. Compassionate leaves could also be given

3. Release Prior to Expiration of Term of Service

Before the reorganization of the PTP (Auxiliary Technical Battalions) into the TP (Technical Battalions), there was no definite term of service, and the only releases were for bad health reasons. NFI. After reorganization into the TP, the regular two-year conscript term of military obligation applied. there were no early releases from this

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reorganized unit except for health reasons	
k. Discharge and Demobilisation	
(1) Release of Older Members	
After the reorganization of the PTP into the TP in 1954, all persons who had served two years of duty or more, began to be released. In November 1954 they had already released about 600 of the 1200 men that formed the	25X1 25X1
51st TP En. These were replaced by approximately the same number of resular two-year conscripts.	
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	25 X 1
(2) Travel from Unit to Home	
Those being discharged were placed on special military trains with orders for their discharge and were to report to their respective District Military Headquarters (OVV office). They travelled in uniform and were to destrain at their respective destinations.	25X1
Quarters at VYSKOV given civilian identity papers (Obchansky prukaz) and released to civilian status.	
1. Replacement of TP Personnel	
Replacements for TP units came from the groups normally drafted for military service. It was a policy to assign to TP units personnel with previous experience or training in some trade which could be utilized in the TP, however many of the incoming replacements had no trade or training. no one being held in service because of shortages of personnel with skills or trades.	25X1 25X1
B. MISCELLANEOUS MILITARY MANPOWER DATA	
1. Assignment of Personnel to Branches of Service	
individual conscripts were assigned to a branch of service of the Armed Forces, Security Troops, or Auxiliary Labor Units by the individual's respective District Military Headquarters (Okresni vojenske Welitelstvi) prior to meeting the interviewing draft boards, when only a short interview was conducted.	25X1
2. Retention in Service	
it was general knowledge that no person was retained in military service beyond the prescribed term of service. This was true even in TP units after November 1954.	25 X 1
3. Reserve Assignments	
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reserve personnel had to keep their district military headquarters informed of their address and any changes in their address must be promptly reported.	25X1

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25X1 4. Military Districts in Czechoslovakia Czechoslovakia was administratively divided into 19 regions called "Kraj". Each "kraj", or region, had its own military headquarters (Krajske Vojenske Velitelstvi). Further, these regions were sub-divided into "okres" each district also had its own military heador districts. 25X1 quarters. (Okresný vojensky velitelstvi). 5. Compulsory Military Training Program at Universities students. 25X1 had at their universities a six-hour one day a week compulsory military training program, for male students only, which was conducted by unidentified army officers thought to come from nearby garrisons for this duty. About 250 hours of training were given during an estimated school year of 42 25X1 this military training was conducted in all universities and schools of higher learning, but not in the middle or interstudents completing this military training 25X1 mediate schools. program received either an officer's commission as a junior lieutenant or some unidentified NCO rating, according to the student's grades during the term. 6. Women in Military Service no women in the technical labor battalions. 25X1 they were all Concerning other women in service, volunteers on three-year terms and they usually performed either office work or worked in hospitals. 25X1 Comment 25X1 the company was being built up, as it had only two officers, both paratroop lieutenants according to the insignia they wore 25X1 This insignia consisted of a metal emblem of a parachute about three or four centimeters long and about two and one-half centimeters wide, of either a light gold or silver color. On the shoulder boards were also small similar parachute emblems and the two silver stars of a combat arms lieutenant. The base color of the shoulder boards was gold with a red stripe (prusvit) and border stripe around the edge. The color of the cap braid was unknown, but the cap insignia was the normal Czechoslovak army officer's cap insignia. There were between seven and nine NCOs (none were career NCOs) and the second year group of soldiers consisted of only about 10 men, all privates or PFCs, whose main effort or duty was unidentified work details and who received training separately 25X1 CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL 25X1 The company did not have any vehicles other than an unknown number of motorcycles with sidecars, nor did the company have any weapons other than old unidentified but conventional rifles and sub-machine guns. 25X1 more of these weapons there than there were men in the company. (25X1 about 80 men were of the first year group and about 10 were of the second year group, in addition to about seven to nine NCOs.) During training the officers and some of the NCOs carried pistols. 25X1 Comment: 25X1 older men in these units were former army officers, men who had their own businesses, priests, or people of higher social standing and most were between 30 and 45 years of age. they were held in this 25X1 type unit for suspected political unreliability 25X1